

ABSTRACT

To permit releasing an excessive rod pressure from a first hydraulic cylinder and also effectively using pressure oil of its rod chamber upon performing such an operation that pressure
5 oil is fed to a bottom chamber of a second hydraulic cylinder, a hydraulic drive unit is provided with a boom cylinder 6, an arm cylinder 7, a communication line 40 communicating a rod chamber 6b of the boom cylinder 6 and a bottom chamber 7a of the arm cylinder 7 with each other, and a switching valve 57
10 arranged on the communication line 40 for communicating or shutting off the communication line 40 in accordance with a rod pressure of the boom cylinder 6. When an arm-crowding single operation is performed and by its digging counterforce, a rod pressure of the boom cylinder 6 rises to a high pressure of at
15 least a predetermined pressure, the switching valve 57 is changed over from a shut-off position to a communicating position to feed pressure oil from the rod chamber 6b of the boom cylinder 6 to the bottom chamber 7a of the arm cylinder 7. The boom cylinder 6 is hence caused to automatically extend, thereby avoiding
20 lifting of a body of a hydraulic excavator.